

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 4, 2022

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro:

As the Navy considers reductions of flag officers on active duty, in accordance with the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017*, we write to urge you to maintain the billet at the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) in China Lake, California. NAWCWD is a key pillar of our national security that helps best position the Navy for success, now and in the future.

As you know, NAWCWD has made incredible contributions to our country. Congress has recognized the importance of this organization by investing \$3.3 billion to rebuild the base after a devastating earthquake in 2019 damaged critical infrastructure. Because of this investment, NAWCWD will soon be able to leverage new, world-class facilities to test and develop technology used to defend our nation. Together with the 1.1 million acres of land range at China Lake and 36,000 square miles of sea range and airspace at Point Mugu, which includes San Nicolas Island, NAWCWD's greatest contributions to our nation remain ahead of us.

From the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the Naval Air Forces and the Pacific Fleet Commands, California and the Pacific region have a strong Navy presence. We have no doubt that a flag officer at NAWCWD is best positioned to support this important endeavor and better assist those who support the important mission of protecting our shores from threats like China. By ensuring the flag officer remains at NAWCWD, our country is better prepared to guard against threats in operational domains like sea, land, air, and space, forming a bedrock of our national defense enterprise.

Thank you for your consideration of our request, and for your dedication to the men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

Sincerely,



Kevin McCarthy  
House Republican Leader



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla  
United States Senator